Previously in X-Men:

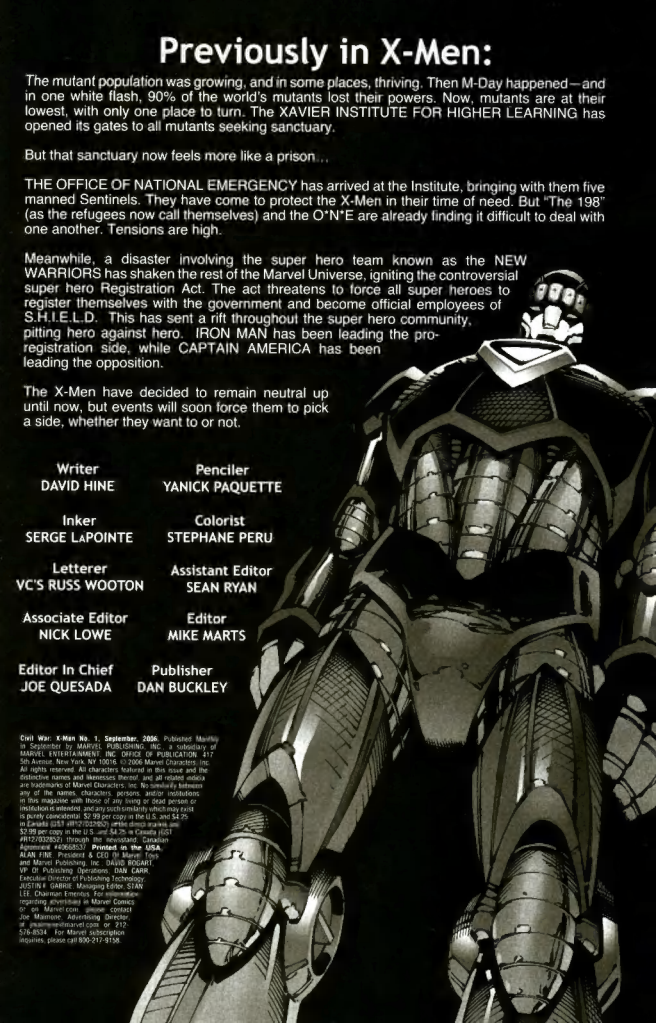
The mutant population was growing, and in some places, thriving. Then M-Day happened—and in one white flash, 90% of the world's mutants lost their powers. Now, mutants are at their lowest, with only one place to turn. The XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING has opened its gates to all mutants seeking sanctuary.

But that sanctuary now feels more like a prison...

THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY has arrived at the Institute, bringing with them five manned Sentinels. They have come to protect the X-Men in their time of need. But "The 198" (as the refugees now call themselves) and the O*N*E are already finding it difficult to deal with one another. Tensions are high.

Meanwhile, a disaster involving the super hero team known as the NEW WARRIORS has shaken the rest of the Marvel Universe, igniting the controversial super hero Registration Act. The act threatens to force all super heroes to register themselves with the government and become official employees of S.H.I.E.L.D. This has sent a rift throughout the super hero community, pitting hero against hero. IRON MAN has been leading the pro-registration side, while CAPTAIN AMERICA has been leading the opposition.

The X-Men have decided to remain neutral up until now, but events will soon force them to pick a side, whether they want to or not.



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TONIGHT ON THIS IS THE HOUR, I'M TALKING TO DR. VALERIE COOPER FROM THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY.
DR. COOPER, THE QUESTION EVERYONE'S ASKING... DO THE MUTANTS THAT SURVIVED M-DAY STILL HAVE THE SAME CIVIL RIGHTS AS THE REST OF US?
YES, OF COURSE. BUT I THINK I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY THE MOVEMENTS OF THE RESIDENTS AT THE XAVIER ESTATE HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED WHILE OTHER REGISTERED SUPER HUMANS CAN LIVE FREELY?
WE ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE, FRAU COMMANDANT.
NOW, NOW, KITTY. YOUR CLAWS ARE SHOWING.
HEY, HANK.
YOU'LL BE SHOWING YOURS TOO WHEN THEY FINALLY LOCK THE X-MEN DOWN.
WON'T HAPPEN.
THIS REGISTRATION WAR ASIDE, MUTANTS ARE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY.
WAIT. WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
APART FROM THE INCESSANT RAIN, I DON'T HEAR A THING.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE PRETERNATURALLY ACUTE HEARING OF A CAT.
I ALSO DON'T GET FLEAS.
THAT WAS ONE TIME.
BUT SERIOUSLY, KITTY, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUT THERE.

KA-BOOOM!
YEEE-HAAAA!

BUT MISS COOPER, ISN'T THE REAL REASON THE MUTANTS ARE BEING KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY IS THAT THEY ARE A DANGER TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE?
THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT THE CASE. THESE MUTANTS ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, PEACEFUL, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.
REMEMBER WHAT WE AGREED TO, SHATTERSTAR--DISARM OR DISABLE. WE DON'T WANT ANY FATALITIES.
YOU WANT TO TELL THAT TO THESE SOLDIER BOYS?
HAH! GUESS SOMEONE DID.
RUBBER BULLETS! PEST! THIS ISN'T BATTLE! IT'S PLAY-ACTING!
SAYS YOU! YOU HAVE A COSTUME MADE FROM MOJOWORLD BODY ARMOR...
...I'M GOING TO BE ONE BIG MASS OF BRUISES IN THE MORNING.
A CONCUSSION CHARGE SHOULD TAKE THE SASS OUT OF THEM.
OKAY, BOYS AND GIRLS, TRANSPORT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL.
ANYONE WHO WANTS OUT OF THIS HOLIDAY CAMP, YOUR FLIGHT IS READY TO DEPART!
HRRRMM. CALIBAN THINKS THEY MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.
CLASSIC DAVID-AND-GOLIATH SITUATION--

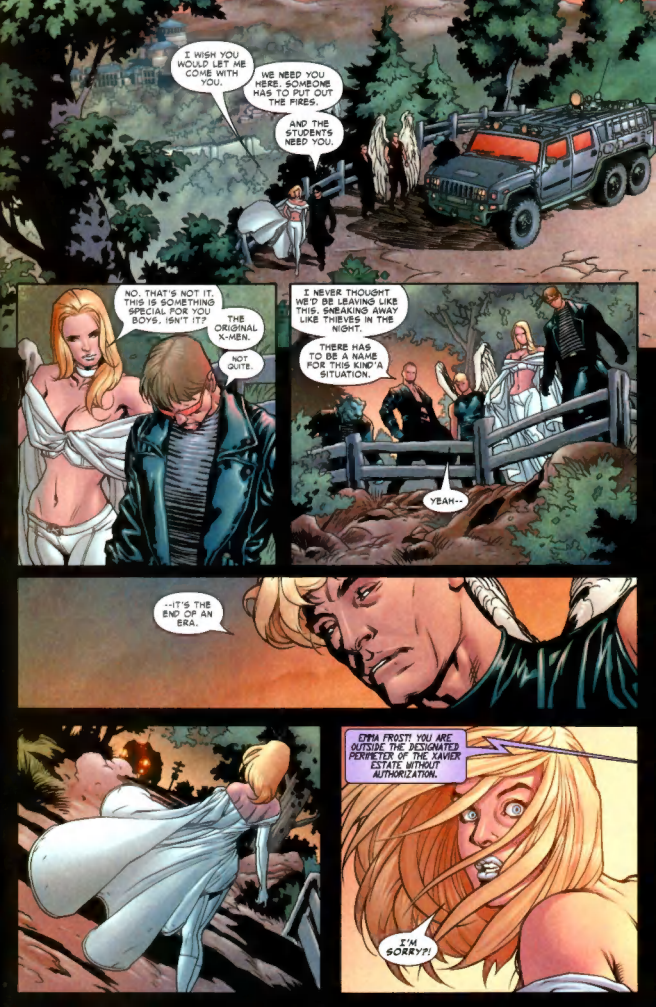
--THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
ALL SENTINEL UNITS USE LOW-LEVEL REPULSORS AGAINST RESIDENT MUTANTS.
THOSE OTHER TWO ARE NOT ON THE LIST. RETALIATE WITH LETHAL FORCE!
BISHOP!
COLONEL REYES, WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
THE 198 STARTED A RIOT. LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A DIVERSION TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION FROM THE PERIMETER WALL.
SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY HAD FRIENDS ON THE OUTSIDE.
SHATTERSTAR AND DOMINO. THEY'RE X-FORCE.
THEY JUST BLEW A HOLE IN WALLS BUILT WITH U.S. TAXPAYERS' MONEY.
THEY'RE TERRORISTS!

SENTINELS! LAY DOWN CONTINUOUS FIRE!
NO ONE GOES THROUGH THAT WALL!
THIS ENDS NOW!
RETURN TO YOUR QUARTERS!
FWOOM
WHERE THE HELL ARE THE OTHER X-MEN? IF WE DON'T GET SOME BACKUP, I'M ORDERING MY MEN TO SWITCH TO LETHAL ORDNANCE.
I CALLED. THE X-MEN WILL BE HERE.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. WE NEED TO TAKE THOSE SENTINELS DOWN. FAST!
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY AND THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PERFECT TIME TO PERFORM A FIELD TEST.
I COULD ALWAYS MANIPULATE PROBABILITIES SUBCONSCIOUSLY, BUT I'VE BEEN PRACTICING COGNITIVE CONTROL.
YOU SEE THOSE STORM CLOUDS? THERE'S A LOT OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY UP THERE.
LIGHTNING HAS TO STRIKE SOMETHING.
IF I CAN JUST NUDGE THE ODDS A LITTLE...
KER-ASSHH!

I'M SORRY, SHARD. I'M SO SORRY...
...IT WAS MY FAULT...
WHAT THE HELL?
CALIBAN, DID I ASK FOR YOUR HELP?!
WHERE IS THE HONOR IN THIS?
SNNRRRP! NO TIME FOR HONOR. CALIBAN DID THE JOB.
MOVE IT, PEOPLE! WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ADMIRE THE DRAMATIC LIGHTING!
JUST GET YOUR BUTTS ON BOARD!

SIR! MORE MUTANTS HEADING IN!
RELAX, SOLDIER. THEY'RE WITH US.
OH GOD...
THIS IS WRONG. THIS IS SO WRONG.
GIVE IT UP, DOMINO!
NOT A CHANCE, SCOTT.
WE'RE HERE TO FREE THESE PEOPLE. THEY'VE COMMITTED NO CRIME, UNLESS BEING A MUTANT IS A CRIME NOW.
WE'RE NOT GIVING UP. YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL US.
ARE YOU READY TO DO THAT?


I WISH YOU WOULD LET ME COME WITH YOU.
WE NEED YOU HERE. SOMEONE HAS TO PUT OUT THE FIRES.
AND THE STUDENTS NEED YOU.
NO. THAT'S NOT IT. THIS IS SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU BOYS, ISN'T IT?
THE ORIGINAL X-MEN.
NOT QUITE.
I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BE LEAVING LIKE THIS. SNEAKING AWAY LIKE THIEVES IN THE NIGHT.
THERE HAS TO BE A NAME FOR THIS KIND'A SITUATION.
YEAH--
--IT'S THE END OF AN ERA.
EMMA FROST! YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED PERIMETER OF THE XAVIER ESTATE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.
I'M SORRY?!